

REMARKS

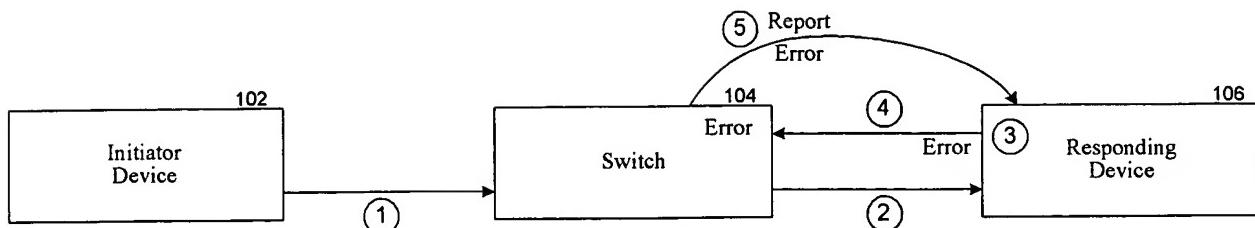
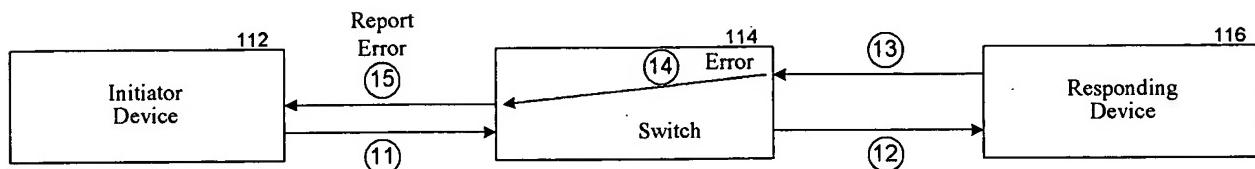
Claims 1-11, 13-31, and 33 are pending. Applicant has amended claims 1, 10, 11, 13, 16-20, 30, 31, and 33.

The Examiner has objected to the abstract of the disclosure under MPEP § 608.01(b). Applicant has amended the abstract to address the Examiner's concerns.

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the telephone interview of February 16, 2005. In this response, applicant clarifies some points discussed during the interview regarding the nature of the invention and the prior art.

The Examiner has rejected claims 10, 11, 13-20, 30, 31, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended claims 10, 11, 13, 16-20, 30, 31, and 33 to draw a more clear distinction between a "first communications device" and a "second communications device."

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-11, 13-31, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Haartsen. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant's technology detects at a switch an error in transmission of a response sent from a responding device to an initiating or requesting device. When the error is detected in the response, the switch notifies the requesting device, rather than the responding device. The prior art (e.g., Haartsen), in contrast, describes that when a responding device detects an error in a request, it notifies the requesting device. Thus, the prior art describes a conventional technique of notifying the transmitting device when an error is detected in a transmission sent by the transmitting device. Applicant's claims are, in contrast, directed to a switch notifying the initiating device, rather than the transmitting device, when an error is detected in a transmission. Applicant has prepared the following figures to illustrate differences between the prior art and the claimed invention.

*Prior Art**Applicant*

The prior art describes a method for error detection and correction when transmitting data packets over a network in which the error is detected by a destination device. For example, an initiator device 102 may transmit a request for data to a responding device 106 through a switch 104 (step 1), as shown in the prior art figure. The switch 104 simply forwards the request to the responding device 106 (step 2). The responding device 106 can "identify whether the packet has been correctly received" (step 3) and can check "the correctness of the packet and either sends an acknowledgement signal (ACK) with the packet number or a non-acknowledgement signal (NAK) in case the packet has been correctly or incorrectly received, respectively" (step 4) to the switch 104. (Haartsen, 3:45-52.) When the switch 104 receives a transmission (e.g., ACK, NAK, or other), it determines whether there was an error in transmitting the transmission from the responding device 106 to the switch 104. If there was an error, the switch 104 notifies (step 5) the responding device 106. Thus, the prior art describes that the device that sent the transmission that was in error is notified of the error.

Applicant's technology, in contrast, is a method in which "upon detecting at a switch an error during the transmission of the transaction response, terminating the transmission and transmitting an error message to the initiator communications device

from the switch that detected the error rather than notifying the responding communications device that sent the transmission to the switch" as recited by claim 1. For example, an initiator device 112 may transmit a request for data to a responding device 116 through a switch 114 (steps 11 and 12), as shown in applicant's figure. The responding device 106 transmits the requested data to the switch 114 (step 13). When the switch 114 detects an error in the data (step 14), it transmits (step 15) an error message to the initiator device 112 so that the initiator device 112 can handle the error. The responding device 106 "is not notified of the error." Applicant's technology, unlike the prior art, detects an error at the switch and notifies the initiator device but does not notify the responding device that an error has been detected. Note: The prior art error report (step 5) goes to the responding device, and applicant's error report (step 15) goes to the initiator device.

Haartsen neither teaches nor suggests a method in which a switch detects the error and transmits an error message to the initiator device without notifying the responding device. Instead, Haartsen discloses a method in which the responding device, not the switch, detects an error and transmits the error message to the initiator device that sent the transmission that has the error.

Each of the pending independent claims clearly recites the concept of detecting an error at the switch in a transmission from a responding device and transmitting an error message from the switch to the initiator device without notifying the responding device.

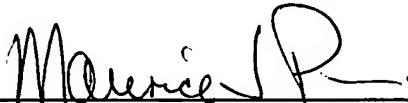
Based upon the above amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. A Notice of Allowance is, therefore, respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a

telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-8548.

Respectfully submitted,

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